

**COMMISSION ON TEACHER CREDENTIALING**

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**PROFESSIONAL SERVICES DIVISION**

September 14, 2006

**IHE Deans/Directors of Teacher Education:**

As you are well aware, over the past two years, the Commission has been engaged in a review of its accreditation system to bring it in better alignment with the current educational policy environment and to ensure that it results in high quality programs that produce academically and professionally prepared new teachers. Although there are a number of details about the revised system still to be resolved, this revision of the system is now moving forward and we want to take this opportunity to update you on the status of accreditation of educator preparation programs in California.

It is important to note that the review of the existing accreditation system was conducted with extensive input from the field. An accreditation study workgroup representing nearly all the major stakeholders in California's higher education and K-12 communities actively participated in the development of a series of recommendations. During the review process, the Commission temporarily suspended accreditation site visits but did continue to conduct accreditation site visits for those institutions seeking initial or continuing NCATE accreditation in accordance with our NCATE partnership.

On August 1, 2006, the Commission took action to resume accreditation site visits in 2007-2008 and to adopt a revised accreditation system for educator preparation in California (<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/commission/agendas/2006-08/2006-08-6B.pdf>). The Commission will take further actions about the revised accreditation system at its meeting in September 2006 (<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/commission/agendas/2006-09/2006-09-5G.pdf>). The Commission will act on additional recommendations to implement the revised accreditation system at future meetings. As the Commission takes action, information will be disseminated to all program sponsors, but if you have any questions please contact Teri Clark, Administrator of Accreditation ([tclark@ctc.ca.gov](mailto:tclark@ctc.ca.gov)).

Within the revised system, the activities of accreditation will be spread over a seven year cycle instead of concentrating accreditation activities into a single event, the site visit which took place once every six years. All institutions or program sponsors that prepare educators in California have been placed on a schedule for upcoming accreditation activities. The revised system will include a site visit in addition to other activities. Your institution or program sponsor is a part of a **color coded** cohort and your site visit is scheduled for the **corresponding cohort year**, but please understand that additional accreditation activities, such as biennial reporting and program review, will need to be completed prior to and after the site visit by every institution.

The revised accreditation system will begin implementation in 2007-2008. The activities in the revised system will be phased in over a number of years. The table below provides some information about the expectations over the next four years.

| Site Visit Year         | Accreditation Process  |
|-------------------------|--|
| 2007-2008               | Currently adopted <i>Accreditation Framework</i> (1995) will govern the site visit. The currently adopted standards (Common and all program standards) will be used for the review.  |
| 2008-2009               | Currently adopted <i>Accreditation Framework</i> (1995) will govern the site visit. If revised Common Standards are adopted by the Commission prior to July 1, 2007, the revised Common Standards will be used for the site visit. |
| 2009-2010<br>and beyond | The revised Accreditation Framework will govern the site visit. The program review portion of the site visit will take place two years prior to the site visit and the site visit will focus mainly on the Common Standards.       |

As the Commission completes its work in adopting the revised accreditation system, a revised Accreditation Framework will be adopted. Once that is in place, the Committee on Accreditation will also develop a new Accreditation Handbook that outlines the procedures for accreditation.

There is still much work needing to be done and many questions left to answer. We ask for your patience and understanding as we continue to resolve these outstanding issues in the coming months. For our part, we commit to communicating with you as the details of the revised system continue to take shape.

Sincerely,

Lawrence Birch, Director  
Professional Services Division